

# Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member  
Mike Sullivan



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## Residents of District E,

The end of March was marked by some high profile events here at city hall.

### Police Chief

Mayor Parker appointed Charles McClelland as her Chief of Police. Even though the mayor picks the chief, it is still subject to confirmation by city council. Chief McClelland will now visit with all council members to hear what is important to them and to ask for votes. I have strong beliefs about how HPD must work within my district and the services that must be provided. We want a responsive department that is also engaged with our neighborhoods, active with PIP and Neighborhood Watch programs and conducts visible patrols that will deter crime.

### METRO

METRO ([www.RideMetro.org](http://www.RideMetro.org)) saw five new board members appointed by Mayor Parker and approved unanimously by city council. I visited with several of the new board members and promoted what I think METRO should do for my council district and what it needs to do for the city as a whole. District E wants efficient and secure Park-N-Ride lots, promotion of additional bus routes along the Gulf Freeway corridor and additional parking capacity at the Fuqua and Kurland lots. We also want to continue promotion of the vanpool programs that are now in service. I also advocated for expedited construction of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on Highway 59 North, emphasized that METRO should improve and excel in its bus services and that they not spend us into eternal debt to finance light rail lines.

### Coastal Water Authority

Lastly, five new directors were appointed to the Coastal Water Authority ([www.CoastalWaterAuthority.org](http://www.CoastalWaterAuthority.org)) board of directors. Known as CWA, they are responsible for delivery of raw surface water to the City of Houston and other local municipalities, as well as the almost 100 industrial customers. They were chartered by the state of Texas as a conservation and reclamation district in 1967. CWA is spearheading the construction of the Luce Bayou project, which will bring millions of gallons of water a day into Lake Houston around the year 2019. As chair of the city's Water Resources Management Committee, I take a particularly strong interest in CWA.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

**Mike Sullivan**  
Council Member

## Kingwood Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan kicked off the first town hall meeting this year at Kingwood's Creekwood Middle School. In an effort to keep communication open to his constituents, Council Member Sullivan presented project updates and allowed attendees to address the appropriate city representatives with their questions and concerns. Such topics covered during the meeting included traffic, the new Compostable Bag Program and recent housing projects.

He thanks all the City of Houston representatives who attended the meeting and Creekwood Middle School for allowing the District E office to use their auditorium for the meeting.



*Council Member Sullivan discusses projects in District E.*

## Shattered Dreams at Kingwood High School

In an effort to encourage high school students to make responsible decisions regarding drinking and driving, a reenactment of a driving while under the influence accident was held at Kingwood High School last month. Council Member Sullivan and his staff participated in the event where they witnessed a full response from the Houston Fire Department, Houston Police Department and Memorial Hermann Life Flight. In coordination with Kingwood High School, Council Member Sullivan helped arrange for the Mobile Response Team to direct traffic in order to guarantee the smooth flow of traffic before and during this important event. Following the program, Council Member Sullivan asked the Houston Police Department to deploy their speed trailers as a reminder that speeding is dangerous, too.

## Kings Crossing Commercial Association Meeting

Kings Crossing Commercial Association will be paying to move 11 trees out of the intersection of W. Lake Houston Parkway and Kingwood Drive. Businesses intend to save and prevent them from being cut down during upcoming intersection improvements. The City of Houston will replace those trees that the Kings Crossing Commercial Association does not remove, yet still need to be cut down; however, it is the goal of the organization to save as many trees as possible.

Council Member Sullivan worked with the appropriate city departments in order to achieve this. He wants to thank the association for their interest in finding solutions to the problem.

## Trash Bash at Lake Houston Marina

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Trash Bash event was held on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Every year thousands of Texans gather together to clean the waterways and to promote the importance of preserving the environment and keeping waterways clean. This is the largest statewide event that educates the public about the importance of our water resources. There are 17 cleanup sites across the state of Texas and the Lake Houston Trash Bash is one of the originals

As Chair of the Water Resources Management Committee, Council Member Sullivan takes particular interest in the preservation of our water and supports the Trash Bash event. .

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## Kingwood Branch Library Grand Opening

The new Kingwood Branch Library will officially open its doors on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Council Member Sullivan invites his constituents to join him in celebrating the grand opening of the recently built, LEED certified 30,000 square foot facility. The public is invited to learn about the many features and programs the library will offer the community. The Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting that will begin at 11 am.

The library, built by the City of Houston, will be managed by Harris County, and is located at 4400 Bens View Lane. It's final cost was approximately \$8 million, which includes the purchase of the nine acres.



## Project Updates

- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2010.
- An additional \$289,000 has been earmarked for the Kingwood HPD substations for overtime programs and Mobility Response Teams.
- Intersection improvements at Woodland Hills and North Park Drive are close to completion. Improvements at West Lake Houston and Kingwood Drive should begin in the next month.

## South Belt Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan wants to remind South Belt-Ellington residents that he will be hosting a town hall meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> at San Jacinto College – South Campus in the Marie Flickinger Building. District E project updates will be discussed. Council Member Sullivan will then open the floor for audience members to voice their questions and concerns. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm.

If you have any questions please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

## Sterling High School Presentation



Council Member Sullivan was invited to speak to students at Sterling High School last month about government and its functions, the Houston economy and pointers on how to become successful businessmen and women in life. These topics were discussed to support the school's recent entrepreneur project which students will be selling, marketing and advertising World Cup jerseys for this year's soccer games in South Africa.

This is the second year Council Member Sullivan has spoken to Sterling High School students and is proud to serve them.

*Executive Dir. Of the Reach-In Project  
Bernard Johnson, Sterling High School  
College Coordinator Av Cozart and  
Council Member Sullivan*

## South Shaver Road Reconstruction Update

The Shaver Road project includes widening S. Shaver Rd. from a four lane undivided roadway with open ditches to a six lane divided roadway with raised median, curb and gutter drainage, sidewalks, street lighting and improved underground utilities. The project also includes a channel improvement of a portion of the Berry Bayou and a new detention pond that outfalls from S. Shaver Road.

This is a multi jurisdictional project with the City of Houston, Harris County and TxDOT all working together. The City of Houston is waiting on final design review from TxDOT and a 404 permit from the US Corps of Engineers. Construction is expected to begin spring of 2011. For more information please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

## Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park has been approved and will be installed in early 2010.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is open.
- Monroe Road improvements are complete, and open all the way to Beltway 8.
- This spring, METRO will be adding 150 new parking spaces at the South Point Park and Ride Lot offering a total of 766 spaces to patrons.

## Clear Lake Town Hall Meeting

Clear Lake residents will have the opportunity to learn of District E projects and address city representatives during Council Member Sullivan's town hall meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the University of Houston – Clear Lake in the Garden Room. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm. Representatives from several City of Houston departments will be in attendance including Public Works and Engineering, Parks, Solid Waste, Houston Police Department and Houston Fire Department.

For more information please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

## HPD Retirement Ceremony

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Greg Gillespie officially retired after 34 years of service with the Houston Police Department. As an active liaison and community partner, Council Member Sullivan presented him with a certificate during a ceremony at the Clear Lake Substation recognizing him for his decades of selfless service and dedication to the Houston community and its citizens.

Senior Police Officers Frank Stumpo and George Buchanan also celebrated their retirement during the ceremony. Both officers dedicated over 25 years of service to the department. Council Member Sullivan also recognized both officers with an official certificate of appreciation and presented it to them in front of family, friends and colleagues.

The District E office wishes Sgt. Gillespie, Officer Stump and Officer Buchanan much success in the years to come.



*Sgt. Gillespie, Council Member Sullivan, Sr. Police Officer Frank Stumpo, Sr. Police Officer George Buchanan and Captain Pando*



## BAHEP's State of Economy Address

Council Member Sullivan attended the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's third annual State of the Economy luncheon hosted by BAHEP's Small Business Committee. This year's address was presented by Dr. Ray Perryman, President and CEO of The Perryman Group and Dr. Robert Hodgkin, Associate Professor of Economics, The University of Houston – Clear Lake. The two speakers gave an analysis of U.S. and Texas Economies and an analysis of recent economic trends and projects for Bay Area Houston Business sectors.

## Go Red Luncheon

Clear Lake Regional Hospital sponsored the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Go Red for Women Luncheon at South Shore Harbour Resort on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The luncheon is organized on a yearly basis to bring awareness of heart disease to the Bay Area and to push the community to live a heart-healthy lifestyle.

Heart disease is the number one killer of women, and the American Heart Association in partnership with Clear Lake Regional Hospital, has dedicated education and resources to bring awareness of the disease. The hospital provides numerous community outreach events that focus on preventing heart disease and promoting a healthier lifestyle by women making positive, simple changes in their daily routines.

Council Member Sullivan attended this year's luncheon as honored guest of Clear Lake Regional CEO, Stephen Jones.

## Clear Lake Club House Meeting

In response to numerous constituent complaints, Council Member Sullivan met with Officer Randy Derr, Clear Lake City Community Association Manager Leslie Alvarez and two constituents regarding the old Clear Lake Club House located on Diana Lane. Council Member Sullivan had Officer Derr from the Clear Lake Substation meet him and the others at the Club House to hear what initiatives have been taken by the Houston Police Department and Neighborhood Protection. This included ensuring the building is secured and not a threat to the community. He will continue to work with each department and the community to ensure that the residents of Clear Lake are safe.



*Officer Randy Derr speaks to Council Member Sullivan, Leslie Alvarez and two constituents about the club house.*

## Project Updates

- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
  - Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.
  - Council Member Sullivan received the final draft of the Clear Lake traffic operations study draft, and it is currently under review.
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## Joint Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan and Texas State Representative Carol Alvarado will be co-hosting a hurricane preparedness town hall meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm at Garfield Elementary located at 10301 Hartsook Street. Council Member Sullivan encourages his constituents to attend to learn of unique and useful tips on how to prepare for this year's hurricane season. Various city, county and state departments will be available at the meeting to answer any questions the public may have.

For more information, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

## Dynamo Stadium



Houston City Council unanimously approved the agreement for the proposed new Houston Dynamo soccer stadium. Opposed to it in the past, Council Member Sullivan now embraces the stadium and has openly supported the passing of the item.

Council Member Sullivan also supports the idea of the Houston Sports Authority agreeing to help with the stadium lease negotiations and to help manage the property. In addition, general revenue funds will not be used for the \$80 million stadium. The Dynamo team will contribute nearly \$60 million and the rest will come from the East End Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ). Therefore, Council Member Sullivan believes the use of the East End TIRZ monies is a sound and fiscally responsible idea. There have been projects in his district, such as the newly constructed Kingwood Library, that have been financed with TIRZ funds.

The Harris County Commissioners Court will vote next on this agreement on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. If each entity involved reaches agreement on construction and financing issues, the new soccer stadium will be located just east of downtown Houston.

## 740 AM KTRH Proclamation Presentation

On behalf of Mayor Parker, Council Member Sullivan presented News Radio 740 KTRH an official City of Houston Proclamation declaring March 23, 2010 as "News Radio 740 KTRH Day." KTRH has been a leading news source for Houstonians for the last 80 years. The AM station continues to broadcast important news and timely weather alerts to the Houston community. KTRH radio host Lana Hughes accepted the proclamation on behalf of the radio station.

Former Council Member Michael Berry is a popular radio talk show host at KTRH. He can be found on the radio daily from 5 pm to 8 pm.



*Council Member Sullivan, Lana Hughes and Mayor Parker*

## International Committee Presentations



*Council Member Sullivan pictured with International Committee members*

During this year's Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity of presenting City of Houston Proclamation's to Congressman Abelardo Lupion from Londrina, Brazil and to the State of Pubela on behalf of Mayor Parker. The two visiting countries were invited by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Committee and were recognized during an event at Reliant Center.

Council Member Sullivan wants to acknowledge the hospitality that Dennis Steger extended to him during these presentations. Steger is the HLS&R International Committee Chairman.

## Armed Forces Day at Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

Council Member Sullivan had the honor and privilege of presenting a City of Houston Proclamation, on behalf of Mayor Annise Parker, at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to the Armed Forces and their families last month. He acknowledged each individual soldier present at the ceremony and on active duty for their service and sacrifice for the United States of America. 2,300 of the most respected military men and women were in attendance and were thanked for their bravery while protecting our homeland and freedoms here.

Therefore, Council Member Sullivan proclaimed March 10, 2010 as the official "Salute to our Troops Day."



*Council Member Sullivan with several military men and women*

## HPOU Blood Drive



*Council Member and the volunteer nurses at the HPOU blood drive*

On March 4, 2010, Council Member Sullivan attended the Houston Police Officer's Union (HPOU) Blood Drive. The blood donated benefits injured police officers and their families.

Council Member Sullivan always supports HPOU functions, and was the only council member to donate blood at the event and makes it a priority to donate each time the HPOU hosts a blood drive.

## Compostable Bag Program

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind District E residents that the new Compostable Bag Program went into effect **April 5<sup>th</sup>**. This new ordinance mandates that all grass clippings, leaves and plant trimmings be disposed of in a biodegradable bag that bears the City of Houston seal. These bags can be purchased at area stores including Walmart, Kroger, Lowes, Home Depot, Fiesta, Randall's and Berings.

A 60 day grace period goes into effect starting April 5<sup>th</sup>. After the 60 days, residents will be fined for not using the appropriate bags.

## Heavy Trash

The City of Houston's Solid Waste Department will pick up only **Junk Waste** during the month of April. Junk Waste is defined as furniture, appliances and other bulky material. Resident's who receive City of Houston trash pick up service can legally put junk waste out at 6:00 pm the Friday before their designated pick up day.

For more information and detailed placement instructions, please visit the Solid Waste Department's website at [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org).

## Council Member Sullivan's 2010 Town Hall Meeting Dates

### Town Hall

Kingwood	3/23/2010	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Creekwood Middle School
Clear Lake	4/27/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	UHCL – Garden Room
South Belt	5/11/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	San Jac College – Marie Flickinger Bldg

### Council Member Sullivan and Rep. Alvarado's Joint Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall Meeting

South	4/20/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Garfield Elementary
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### Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall

South	6/8/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	UHCL – Garden Room
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### Flooding and Drainage Town Hall

South	7/14/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	San Jac College – Marie Flickinger Bldg
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